

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 01172 220635Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0025

S E C R E T BANGKOK 1172

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH

SUBJ: U.S.-THAI DISCUSSIONS ON FORCE LEVELS

REF: A. BANGKOK 0443

B. STATE 012825

1. AMBASSADOR SAW FOREIGN MINISTER AT LATTER'S REQUEST ON MORNING JANUARY 22. AS ANTICIPATED, FOREIGN MINISTER RAISED SUBJECT OF U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE AND PRESSED HARD FOR FORMAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS ON THIS MATTER. WE WILL REPORT DETAILS LATER BUT, IN THE EVENT PRESS OR OTHER QUESTIONS ARE RAISED, WANT DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY TO BE AWARE OF SCENARIO WHICH HAS BEEN WORKED OUT.

2. IT WAS AGREED DURING MEETING THIS MORNING THAT ON DEPARTURE OF AMBASSADOR, FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD MAKE STATEMENT TO PRESS ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

"DURING THE MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CHARUNPHAN ISARANGKUN NA AYUTHAYA AND AMBASSADOR WILLIAM R. KINTNER ON JANUARY 22, 1975, THE GENERAL SECURITY SITUATION IN THE INDO-CHINA AREA WAS EXAMINED.

"THEY ALSO REVIEWED THE REDUCTION IN US FORCES IN THAILAND CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT REACHED IN MARCH 1974, NOTING THAT THE GOALS ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME HAD BEEN REACHED.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGKO 01172 220635Z

"IN VIEW OF THE INTENSIFICATION OF THE CONFLICT IN BOTH CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM, IT WAS AGREED THAT AN URGENT MEETING OF THE THAI-US COORDINATING COMMITTEE WOULD TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO REVIEW THE OVER-ALL SITUATION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA."

3. TO AVOID TIME FOR PRESSURES ON THAI SIDE TO BUILD, JOINT U.S.-THAI MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 3:00 P.M. THIS AFTERNOON. FOREIGN MINISTER AGREED THAT STATEMENT WOULD BE ISSUED IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THIS MEETING ALONG LINES OUR PROPOSAL PARA 15, REF (A), AS APPROVED BY REF (B). GENERAL KRIANGSAK WILL CHAIR MEETING ON THAI SIDE. WILL ADVISE NIACT IMMEDIATE WHEN STATEMENT FROM U.S.-THAI GROUP IS TO BE ISSUED.
KINTNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FORCE & TROOP LEVELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO001172
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750023-0958
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750132/aaaabboi.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 BANGKOK 0443
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S.-THAI DISCUSSIONS ON FORCE LEVELS
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006